Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).

As a preliminary matter, the information included in the enclosed IDS was first submitted in the IDS filed on March 10, 2006; however, it was not identified as being considered by the Office until the Communication of October 16, 2009. In the October 16 Communication, several references were lined-through for not being in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. The references are being re-submitted herewith along with English translations or abstracts thereof, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

Claims 10-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were pending in the application. In view of the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated October 13, 2010, independent claim 10 has been rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 16 and for clarity. Claim 16 has therefore been canceled. Claim 19 has been canceled as now being redundant with claim 14. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 10-14, 17 and 20 are pending in the application.

In view of the amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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